

Mr. MOYNIHAN. That is most reassuring. I thank the leader.

Mr. LOTT. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE SENATE AGENDA

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, we are now 23 days from the end of the last fiscal year, and 15 days before the election. So far, this Congress can be defined more by what it has failed to do than what it has done. The majority has so far succeeded in killing a number of critical initiatives needed by working families and senior citizens. The list of legislative corpses could fill several obituary pages.

Here is the report card on this Congress: Patients' Bill of Rights, not done; prescription drug benefit for Medicare, not done; school modernization and renovation, not done; class-size reduction, not done; minimum wage increase, not done; pay equity, not done; farm bill reforms, not done; gun safety measures, not done; campaign finance reform, not done; hate crimes legislation, not done; Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act, not done; college tuition tax deductibility, not done; long-term care tax credit, not done; child care tax credit, not done.

That list could go on and on but I think that summarizes it pretty well.

One might ask, what have we been doing around here this year? Quite frankly, not a heck of a lot when it comes to the people's business. And not only regarding the agenda, there are important authorizations and reauthorizations that have not been authorized.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the first time since 1965 that Congress fails to reauthorize. The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, Older Americans Act, the Superfund, Clean Water Act, Energy Policy Act and Veterans Health Care Eligibility Reform Act—none of these reauthorizations have taken place this year.

On top of that, we failed to pass our critical appropriations bills.

Right now, we are meeting—I'm the Senate leading Democrat on the Labor-HHS and education bill—on our education appropriations bill. We are in negotiations now. We have been in negotiations since last July and we can't seem to get it done. We are talking about class-size reduction. We have had it for 2 years. It is working well. Go around to your States and talk to the schools. Teachers love it. They are get-

ting more teachers in the classroom. They are getting aides, assistant to come in, especially for kids with disabilities. And right now the Republicans want to turn the clocks back. They don't want to do that anymore. They want to turn the clock back.

On school modernization and construction, they don't want to do that one, either. Mr. President, 14 million American children attend classes in buildings that are unsafe or inadequate. How do we expect our kid to learn for the 21st century when they are in schools not equipped for the 20th century? Yet this Congress says no; no to the educational things that will make our kids better students, make our schools better schools, make the future a better one for all of our people. They say no.

We have had for 3 years, a demonstration projects in Iowa on school repair, \$17.6 million in Federal funds to make needed repairs. It is leveraged an additional \$141 million, a ratio of \$8 to every \$1.

It has been a great success. This is what we could expect around the nation if the Republicans would just get serious and fund this modernization and classroom construction program. We need to continue the class size reduction.

I read this morning in the Congress Daily that the majority leader may make public a tax plan that he intends to pass before we leave: \$260 billion over 10 years, more than the prescription drug plan that we do not even have time to consider. I am very disappointed that we have not considered a prescription drug plan. Now, we may have a \$260 billion tax plan dropped in front of us with a request to pass it before we have an opportunity to find out what is in it. I have not seen it. No one seems to have seen this tax bill. Unfortunately, I hear it is full of tax breaks for the wealthy and breaks for the middle class and those with modest incomes are being taken out. If we do get a tax bill, we are going to have to look through this with a fine tooth comb before we vote on it. The American people deserve to know who benefits from this bill. I will be having more to say about that later, if and when we do see this so-called tax bill.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. HARKIN. As I have almost every day we have been in session, now, for the last few weeks—I brought up the issue of Bonnie Campbell, who has bipartisan support, who has had her hearing in the Judiciary Committee, yet has not been reported out for a vote. This is it. We had 7 nominations for circuit court judges, 2 had their hearings, one was referred, and one was confirmed—one out of 7 this year. Yet in 1992, when there was a Republican President and a Democratic Senate, we had 14 nominations for circuit court judges in the election year, 9 had a

hearing, 9 were referred, and 9 were confirmed. Everyone who had a hearing got confirmed, and that was during the election year. Yet this year we only got 1 out of 7.

One of those stuck in there who has had the hearing is Bonnie Campbell, who headed the Office of Violence Against Women ever since it started. She has done an outstanding job at that. We passed the Violence Against Women Act. We reauthorized it by an overwhelming vote in the House and Senate. I think that is a testimony to the fact that Bonnie Campbell has done such an outstanding job of running that Office of Violence Against Women.

She was nominated in March, had her hearing in May, yet she has been sitting there ever since. It is unfair to her. It is unfair to make her sit bottled up in that committee. So, as I do when I get on the floor:

I ask unanimous consent to discharge the Judiciary Committee on further consideration of the nomination of Bonnie Campbell, that her nomination be considered by the Senate immediately following the conclusion of action on the pending matter and that debate on the nomination be limited to 2 hours, equally divided, and that a vote on her nomination occur immediately following the use or yielding back of that time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. STEVENS). Is there objection?

Mr. LOTT. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. HARKIN. We always hear that objection, but we don't know why. She has had her hearing. Let's bring her out for a vote; do the decent thing. Bring her out and vote it up or down. That's the decent thing.

Until we finish here, I will ask that unanimous consent to point out we are not the ones holding it up. All we want is a vote for Bonnie Campbell for the eighth circuit. I believe she deserves no less.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who seeks recognition?

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE UNFINISHED AGENDA

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I listened to the Senator from Iowa, Mr. HARKIN, a few moments ago, as he spoke about the unfinished agenda. I suppose every Congress finishes with a speech by 1 or 2 or 10 or 20 Members of Congress talking about the unfinished